



**JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF  
VETERAN SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS**

**CONSTRUCT AN EDUCATION CENTER  
AT THE VIRGINIA WAR MEMORIAL**

1. **ISSUE:** To provide supplemental funding to construct an Education Center at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.
2. **BACKGROUND:**
  - Over the past ten (10) years, the Virginia War Memorial's Board of Trustees has overseen the renovation of the Memorial and the development and implementation of several award-winning educational programs.
  - The original construction of the Memorial did not foresee or provide space for educational programs, exhibits, or student seminars.
  - The 2005 General Assembly provided \$50,000 that was matched by the Memorial to fund initial planning and design.
  - The 2006 General Assembly established the capital project for the Education Center and appropriated \$500,000 in initial funding. The total project cost is estimated to be \$6 million.
3. **DISCUSSION:**
  - The Memorial has distributed copies of its *Virginians' at War* documentary film series to all middle and high schools in Virginia. This action plus the development and implementation of monthly patriotic events, five student seminars during the school year, and the display of artifacts has resulted in the number of school field trips, tours and visitors to increase by approximately 300% over the past ten years.
  - Currently, the Memorial is unable to accommodate all groups, events, and functions at the Memorial due to inadequate space.
  - The Memorial's Library is currently unavailable to patrons due to space limitations.
  - Only a small number of the Memorial's artifacts can be displayed due to lack of exhibit space.
  - The Memorial's staff currently is housed in a small office trailer behind the main building.
4. **RECOMMENDATION:** That the General Assembly appropriate \$3.5 million in supplemental funds to initiate construction of the Education Center to provide space for school field trips, visitors, and tour groups to have access to the Memorial's award-winning programs.